



Welkom Chapel

Cumorah's Southern Messenger

December, 1963

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper

“CUMORAH’S”

SOUTHERN MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 1963

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Editor: O. L. Alldredge

Associate Editor: David H. Luthy

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A Christmas Message



Christmas time, when the "better angels" of our nature are stirred anew with thoughts of peace and goodwill toward our fellow men, is for us the happiest time of the year. The visits to friends, the cheery call of good wishes, and the exchange of gifts between loved ones renews our faith that there are no problems that cannot be solved among men of good intent.

What a proper season for us to put our personal houses in order; to seek forgiveness for any offense we may have given and to forgive any who may have wronged us; to set everything right with all we know and resolve to do better.

We have long felt that in the homes and hearts of each of us lies the reforming power of the world. This power, based on the teachings of the Saviour, is the leaven that must one day leaven the lump. When we learn to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and deal kindly with our neighbour, those who seek a just peace between the nations in the parliaments of the world will find their work largely done for them.

We pray that as we accept again the gifts of life and salvation laid at our feet by Him whose birthday we commemorate, it may help us to keep the spirit of Christmas living in our hearts throughout the coming year.

President O. Layton Alldredge
Sister Hilda H. Alldredge

SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION

Second Counsellor Appointed

N

Elder Reese Kent Parker was sustained as Second Counsellor in the South African Mission Presidency on October 20, 1963.

E

President Parker is from Providence, Utah, where he was active in Ward Teaching and Quorum activities.

W

He has laboured in Bulawayo, Salisbury, Krugersdorp, Durban and Johannesburg. He has proven his leadership ability by successfully

S

fulfilling the responsibility of being Supervising Elder of the Natal and East Rand Districts. His knowledge of the Gospel and ability to get along with others also qualify him for his calling.

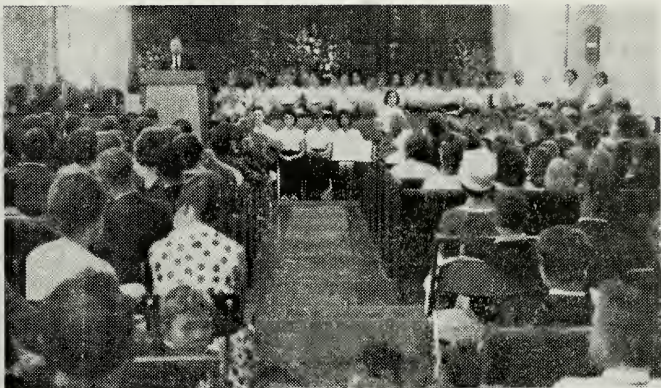
President Parker replaces President Phillip N. Bellon.



Welkom Chapel Opened

THE saints in Welkom, after a lot of working and waiting, proudly announced the opening of their lovely new chapel. The long awaited opening services were held on November 16, 1963. Members and missionaries gathered from all over the Free State and Transvaal to witness the inspired services.

The chapel is of modern design, with a flat roof, grilled steeple, and artistic stone work to set it off, and yet, compliment its surroundings. The interior of the chapel is decorated in lovely shades of brown and rose. Its high ceiling and natural wood panelling harmonize to give the effect of a grand tabernacle with its worshipful atmosphere. With a luxurious lounge and adequate recreation hall in line with the chapel, there is ample room for overflow crowds and recreational activities. The classroom wing includes a Relief Society room, kitchen, baptismal font, and an office along with plenty of classroom space. We pay tribute to Mr. Roy Lyall, the architect responsible for the chapel's design. "He seems to have caught something of the vision of this Church in the lines of the building," said



Members and friends who attended the Welkom Chapel opening

President Kenneth Powrie. "Although of another faith, Mr. Lyall had approached the problem of interpreting the Latter-day Saint requirements with prayer and dedication." Mr. Lyall never lived to see the completion of the chapel, being killed in an automobile accident. (CSM, January, 1963. Page5).

The week-end of the opening began Saturday night with a dinner prepared by the Relief Society which was most delicious. The dinner was followed by a variety show which featured acts from branches throughout the district, and they were enjoyed by all present. On Sunday morning, Priesthood, Relief Society and Sunday School services were held, with a special opening service held in the afternoon. Inspired and uplifting talks were delivered by President and Sister Alldredge of the Mission, President Sidney Spear of the Free State District, President Kenneth Powrie of the Transvaal District, President Andrew Robinson of the Welkom Branch,



Transvaal and Free State Singing Mothers



Dignitaries breaking ground for Copperbelt Chapel

and Brother Gerard Meyer, associate architect. These talks, along with the beautiful music furnished by the Singing Mothers from the Transvaal and Free State Districts, made a most wonderful beginning for the meetings to be held in the chapel. Approximately 250 people attended the opening service.

The completion of the Welkom Chapel is a true reflection of the love that these saints have for the Gospel, and exemplifies their devotion to the principles of righteousness. We commend the members and leaders of the Welkom Branch for their edifice.

We are happy to note that all chapel construction projects throughout the mission are progressing favourably, and the ground-breaking ceremonies of yet another chapel to be built were recently held in Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia. This chapel will be on an ultra-modern design, and the members there are anticipating its completion with happy hearts.



Copperbelt Branch Members

Punctuality

IN the challenge of life to rise above the stain of the world there is one fault that continually plagues us. It is one which shows our lack of character, determination and interest. It is one that is easily acquired and perpetuated unless we are very careful to not let it hinder us. This fault is lack of punctuality.

In the masterful parable of the ten virgins, the Saviour spoke of five wise and five foolish virgins. You remember the story of the five virgins who did not have their lamps properly prepared, and consequently by the time they arrived at the marriage, the doors were shut and locked and they were refused admittance because of their tardiness. The difference between the five wise virgins who were admitted and the five that were not is that the latter were late, and this seems to be the same with about that proportion of people today. This is the reason why people miss their opportunities and objectives, for by the time they get around to doing anything about them, the door has long been shut.

This fault of tardiness reaches out in many directions just like the arm of an octopus. The person who is not baptised until he is nine, fails to be ordained a Deacon until he is fourteen, and habitually defaults in the payment of his tithes at the appointed time, is full of good intentions, but because of always being behind in time, he lacks the real purpose and blessings in his actions. It is sad, but this person will probably be late and unprepared for the judgment day when it arrives as well.

What do you think about the impropriety of being late for an

appointment with the Lord when in our society it is extremely bad manners to be late for a dinner engagement. The Lord is the greatest believer of all in punctuality, and indeed, He is the author of this, the first law of order. He has countless numbers of heavenly bodies moving through space in different directions and at varying speeds, but every one of these billions is on time. You can well imagine the consequences if they were not. I wonder if God who is used to having things happen at appointed times and having His creations at the right place at the right time is well-pleased when the most marvellous of His creations shows his irresponsibility by being late for a simple appointment. "It is far safer to fortell the exact minute that a planet will conclude a billion mile orbit than it is to tell whether or not Brother Jones will be on time to his Priesthood meeting."

Punctuality is not all-important in itself, but because no sin comes single, it is a sure sign of attitudes which could destroy or elevate our soul. The fault of being tardy is related to those of lethargy, sloth, disinterest, and lack of standards, and any one of these could spell our failure. On the other hand, if we make it a point to be on time, we soon cultivate the saving virtues of decision, preparedness, effectiveness, and spirit which spell success.

There is no virtue in tardiness. The time is easiest when the time is at hand. All things have a time and a season. The squirrels gather nuts and the birds fly South in time for Winter, and are we not more intelligent than they both?

DHL.

The Prophet Joseph Smith

DURING this Christmas season the hearts of faithful Latter-day Saints are centred upon Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith. December 25th is the traditionally accepted anniversary of the birth of the Son of God into the world. December 23, 1805, is the actual birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and let's take this time of remembrance of a great man of God and examine the events which preceded his birth and the events of his early life until the First Vision. We are indebted to Preston Nibley and his book *The Presidents of the Church* for this narrative.

"For the beginning of the activities of this remarkable man, one must look to New England, in the early part of the nineteenth century. The parents, Joseph Smith and Lucy Mack Smith, were farming people who had settled in Orange, County, Vermont. Three children were born to them there. For a time they prospered in their agricultural activities. When reverses came they moved to Windsor County and rented a farm from Mrs. Smith's father. There, on the 23rd of December, 1805, the third son and fourth child was born, whom the parents named Joseph Jr.

"During his early youth ill fortune pursued the family of Joseph Jr. The good father tried farming in several localities, but could not quite succeed in any of them. When the boy was six years old, he and his brothers and sisters (two more children having arrived) were stricken with typhus fever. Joseph Jr. soon recovered, but was left with a painful sore in his leg which infected the bones between the knee and foot. Physicians were called in, and after some consultation they decided to operate on the leg and remove the infected bones. Chloroform or anaesthetics of any kind were unknown in those

days. The boy was urged to drink brandy or wine to dull the pain, but refused to do so, saying 'If my father will sit on the bed and hold me in his arms I will do whatever is necessary in order to have the bone taken out.' And so, the primitive operation was performed. Strangely enough there were no disastrous results. With the tender care of the mother the wound soon healed, although the boy was lame for a number of years.

"In 1816, when Joseph Jr. was ten years old, the father, thinking to better his fortunes, left Vermont, and moved with his family to western New York, locating in the village of Palmyra. Here he and his sons did whatever work came to hand in order to support themselves. They were poor, but they were honest and honourable Christian people.

"About 1818 the father purchased 100 acres of timber land two miles south of Palmyra. Here the family soon located, and the father and sons constructed a log cabin home. Their desire now was to remain on this farm permanently and make themselves independent. In a short time they cleared a considerable acreage, planted wheat and corn and set out sugar trees.

"In 1820 the Smith family became actively interested in the subject of religion. Revival meetings were being held in Palmyra and efforts were being made by the various churches to gain converts. Mrs. Smith, her son Hyrum and daughter Sophronia, united with the Presbyterian Church. The boy, Joseph Jr., became acquainted with the Methodist Minister and was inclined towards that sect, although he did not formally join. Then

(Continued on page 324)

The Import of Christmas

By President C. Kenneth Powrie — (Transvaal District)

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD John sat at his homework table and gazed wonderingly through his magnifying lens at a large grass-hopper.

Suddenly he gave a start. He had remembered his Sunday School assignment to talk for two and one half minutes at the forthcoming Special Programme, on "The Import of Christmas", for there, peeping out from beneath the varied paraphernalia which usually graces a young boy's table, was the slip of paper on which his Sunday School Teacher, Sister Jones, had written the title of his talk.

"Oh my," he muttered, "what shall I say? I'd better start thinking about it and ask Mom and Dad for some ideas."

Thoughtfully he picked up the magnifying glass and gazed at the assignment slip, reading in enlarged capitals to himself. "THE . . . IMPORT (funny word — Sister Jones said it meant like 'important meaning') . . . OF . . . CHRIST" The lens paused in its movement and John studied the incomplete word in wonder. "Why, this was it! This was the answer! The true import of Christmas indeed — Christ!"

"Sister Jones was always telling us to look for stories and lessons in all about us and here's one right in front of me, through my magnifying glass. Magnifying? Yes, we've so often heard about people magnifying their callings and didn't the Lord Himself magnify His calling? This lens is just like Jesus Himself — magnifying, making bigger and glorifying the calling of The Christ, the Saviour of mankind!"

John's thoughts raced on, picking up the trail as a bloodhound on the scent. "How does this relate to Christmas? Why, the real mean-

ing of Christmas is the 'Christ' in it, magnified by Jesus Himself in that in the Christ we have the perfect pattern and, even although most people don't even remember the Saviour throughout the year, at least they do at Christmas, perhaps without even knowing it. They tend to be more thoughtful, kindly and generous at that time, but what a pity they don't associate this spirit truly with the Lord. So many even substitute an 'X' for the Christ in Christmas to make Xmas — the celebration of an unknown and unsung hero! So like the magnifying glass too, when people concentrate all their celebrations and actions into one short day or two to burn themselves out, just as one can concentrate the rays of the sun through the lens, to burn and destroy paper or leaves. Wouldn't it be nicer to use the life-giving sunlight and sweetness evenly over the whole year?

"How about lenses in cameras too? Just like the Saviour and ourselves again, for as a camera allows light to flow through its lens to imprint a precious image on the sensitive film, so do we, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, see things so much more clearly, to imprint them upon our hearts.

"Sister Jones is right," thought John, "what a wonderful lesson right here, for the true meaning and import of Christmas is surely just Jesus the Christ and all the precious gifts he left us — gifts of love, kindness, the example of His greatness in living as we should live and, above all, the Gospel of Eternal Life."

John glanced once more at the magnified "Christ" in Christmas, put the lens down and said a little prayer of thankfulness for his

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The Spirit of Christmas

By President John Wilson — (Cape District)

CHRISTMAS is perhaps the one holiday that is most universally celebrated throughout the world. The word Christmas signifies Christ's mass, meaning the festival of the Nativity of Christ. A great deal has been written and spoken concerning the time of Christ's birthday and of His divinity, but we as Latter-day Saints, through modern revelation, have the answers to both of these problems, and we have no doubts as to their authenticity. What ever our differences may be, all Christendom agrees that this advent should be hailed with joy, and the nearer these forms of festivity are to his teachings, the greater joy is experienced by those taking part. Many customs and traditions of both pagan and Christian origin are used in our celebrations of this event. At Christmas time it is the custom for people to send to their friends and relatives greetings which carry their sincerest love and appreciation. It is also the custom to give gifts which are tokens of love from the giver to those who receive. The giving of gifts had its beginning with the wise men when they came to the inn seeking the King of Kings. Seeing the child Jesus with Mary his mother, they fell down and worshipped him, and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Thus the spirit of Christmas has its expression in giving gifts, and they should be appropriate and the symbolism remembered. There is a tendency for Christmas time to become a period of frivolity with a commercial air. In many homes the Saviour is forgotten entirely, and is crowded out by Santa Clause and indulgences in the ways of the

world. Let us put Christ back into our Christmas festivities by remembering His birth and its significance, His life, His mission, His death, His ascension, and the promise of His return to earth as King of Kings in the latter days. Let us make the gifts we give real gifts of the heart which show **our** love, honour, and respect for the recipient.

Let us now consider the great and wonderful happenings that took place at our Saviour's birth, and especially the glad tidings of the angels. The message that they sang to the shepherds as they tended their flocks that night was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men." This Christmas message is the hope that should illuminate the Christian heart and the Christmas season, giving all who love the Lord the desire to glorify His name by living in accordance with his gospel of love. We might well ask the question; where is the peace on earth and good will towards men of which the heavenly hosts sang? Where has it been in all the centuries since that holy night? To answer these questions we must look within our own hearts for it is there that the true spirit of peace may be found. When mankind chooses to follow the Master and literally live the Gospel of Peace, only then will peace come to the earth. Let us who are members of the Kingdom of God be examples to our fellow men in our Christmas celebrations, and let us be worthy of His guiding spirit in our lives at all times so that we may some day be worthy partakers of the greatest gifts of all, those of eternal life and salvation.

The Message of Christmas

By President Gordon Willson — (Natal District)

HE had been given an assignment to find out what Christmas meant to "John Citizen". As he enquired he found that as many as were asked to express their views gave different answers.

Johnnie, who is employed in a large municipal housing scheme, looked up from his array of papers and his eyes glanced in the direction of the graph on the wall. "Sure! it means that people are going to be overspending on luxuries which they cannot afford, and I'll have to work hard for the greater part of next year in persuading the tenants to reduce their rent arrears": To him it meant more work and worry.

The next person to be questioned was his friend, Piet the policeman. "ell, man; I'll be doing double shifts, because so many normally well-behaved people get themselves into trouble. I don't mind being on duty and away from my family, because it always makes me feel good to know that the general public can relax, knowing that we are on duty." This was comforting, and he thought that he detected a certain amount of "good will towards men."

The small shopkeeper down the street went into a lengthy explanation of how business had been bad during the whole year, and that he hoped that things would improve as the holiday season approached. It was a poor area and business would improve with the influx of holiday visitors. To him Christmas spelled profit.

Many were questioned during the course of the day, and when all of the answers were weighed in the balance, it appeared that the scales were tipped in the favour of greed, covetousness, and pleasure.

Returning home, weary and dejected, he passed a house with its large doors opening on the verandah. He could see a group standing around the piano, and it appeared that they were practicing carols. As he paused, he could hear the old familiar tune, "I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play; and wild and sweet their words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men."

But as he listened, his ear caught other sounds. Across the road a baby was crying, and as he continued to listen, he thought he heard angry voices raised in argument. The group around the piano were still singing; "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Slowly he walked up the hill towards his home. Then, with the familiar squeak of the front gate, two little tousle heads appeared at the window. Two noses were pressed against the glass while two pairs of eyes strained to see their Daddy. It was then that he knew that Christmas had a message, and it wasn't what the people had at first made it appear to be.

As he watched those two little silhouettes, his thoughts went back to the unsophisticated keepers of sheep on their Judean hillside who went in haste to Bethlehem "to see this thing which has come to pass" when the angels of the Lord appeared to them. This great happening which had been foretold by prophets of old, when the Only Begotten of the Father would be born into the world, was first made known to the humble shepherds, and the seemingly mighty such as Herod only heard of this at a later

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RELIEF SOCIETY

COMPARATIVE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER



THE TOP THREE

Branch	Attendance Percentage
KLERKSDORP	90%
SPRINGS	88%
CARLETONVILLE	88%

	Enrolled	Average Attendance	Percentage	Attendance	No. of Magazines Sick Visits	Hours Spent in Compassionate Service	No. of Families in Branch	Visiting Teacher Visits
Bellville**	10	8	80%	6	13	20	23	23
Bloemfontein	12	10	83%	11	20	—	24	17
Bulawayo	23	16	70%	6	9	—	—	—
Carletonville	4	35	88%	1	—	—	4	4
Copperbelt	18	13	76%	14	—	—	23	22
Durban	34	20	59%	16	40	—	80	30
East London	17	7	41%	5	—	—	28	21
East Rand	14	11	79%	11	—	—	55	19
Kimberley*								
Klerksdorp	5	4.5	90%	3	8	—	5	—
Krugsdorp	21	15	71%	11	18	2	35	23
Mowbray**	44	23	52%	43	40	9	100	100
Pietermaritzburg	12	6	50%	5	—	—	—	—
Port Elizabeth	13	8	62%	4	9	—	—	—
Pretoria	42	16	38%	23	22	—	85	49
Primrose	12	6	50%	6	—	—	34	13
Ramah*								
Salisbury**	13	8	62%	11	15	—	17	17
Springs	16	14	88%	18	10	—	35	26
Vereeniging	9	6	67%	8	5	1	—	—
Welkom	10	4	40%	4	—	—	20	15

COMPARATIVE REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Bellville	10	12	120%	6	11	—	23	—
Bloemfontein	12	11	92%	11	17	—	24	18
Bulawayo*								
Carletonville*								
Copperbelt	18	10	56%	14	—	—	25	—
Durban	34	17	50%	16	5	—	—	—
East London*								
East Rand*	14	9	64%	11	—	—	55	14
Klerksdorp*								
Krugsdorp*								
Kimberley*								
Mowbray	44	—	—	46	—	—	—	—
Pietermaritzburg	12	6	50%	5	—	—	21	—
Port Elizabeth	13	6	46%	4	16	6	100	100
Pretoria	47	22	46%	18	22	—	49	48
Primrose*								
Ramah*								
Salisbury	13	7	54%	11	—	—	19	19

* Branches which failed to report.

** Congratulations for 100% visiting teaching.

IDEAL WIFEHOOD in the Nuclear Age

By Lilian V. Brummer — (Ramah Branch)

“THE highest ideal for our young girls today, as for our Mothers who crossed the plains, is love as it may be expressed in marriage and home building, and this virtue in which love finds true expression is based upon the spiritual and not the physical side of our being.” Our Prophet David O. McKay gave us these wise words.

Do you often reflect back on the day you made certain promises, and in actual fact entered into a marriage contract with your partner? Do you remember your wedding where you as a young and radiant bride stood on the very threshold of fulfillment? You were ready to take up your life's work of being a wife and mother. As you reflect on the picture of a glowing and eager bride on the threshold of marital life, what are your thoughts of the wife you are today?

Are we still the sweetheart, lover and companion to our husbands that we set out to be. Are we as a fairy princess turned into the Queen of Home — a home builder and one who does not need great wealth to make a home “her man's castle.” Are we the helpmeet in his Priesthood, affording him encouragement to attend to his Priesthood duties? Do we pray together and go to church together?

The road to success is filled with wives pushing their husbands along, it has been said. Also, behind every great man, there is a great woman. We know this to be so, for how many women have devoted their lives to looking after their husband's health, happiness, success, and wealth?

We must love our husbands and accept their small imperfections for we have many of our own. Perhaps, we can help to overcome his little faults instead of ridiculing them.

May we never be found guilty of belittling our husbands in front of other people. Above all, our marital happiness should be bound tightly with a gold chain of loyalty. We as loving wives should boost our husbands in the sight of others that they may be able to appreciate his true worth. If on any occasion we endure some little embarrassment on the part of our husband in order to achieve a greater understanding and love, my feeling is that the sacrifice is worthwhile.

There are good days and bad days in all marriages. There are days when we could willingly change places with any career girl and leave our homes for something far more exciting. Never let us lose the vision that marriage is sacred and ordained of God. President David O. McKay said, “Wifehood is glorious.” In truth, there are many more good satisfying days than bad ones if we care to take the trouble to do some summing up.

Sisters, all of us live under the shadow of war and the fear that the sadly disunited world may invade our private happiness. This is the reason why married couples should make the most of their union, especially in that side that the world cannot reach.

When a man and woman love each other in honour, loyalty and comradeship, then they will gain a knowledge of the true meaning of the “marriage bond.” They will realize the sacredness of their vows, and will want to prepare for a temple marriage which is part of our Heavenly Father's plan to enable His sons and daughters to reach the highest exaltation. This they can only achieve through temple marriage which allows eternal increase.

(Continued on page 324)

FROM OUR FILES

Baptisms

BELLVILLE
WALTON, Lillian Lynnette
BLOEMFONTEIN
BOUWER, Mathilda Henrietta Tresea
Sophia
UTERMOHLEN, Ongrid Lucille
BULAWAYO
PEAKE, John Edgar Kenneth
PEAKE, Lorraine Marian
PEAKE, Elaine Elizabeth
PEAKE, Anthony Allen
CARLETONVILLE
VELLEMAN, Susanna Maria Grobelaar
VELLEMAN, Peter Gordon
DURBAN
FILMALTER, John Gustav
KEE, Herman John
KLERKSDORP
SCHULTZ, Laurence Robert

KRUGERSDORP
GRADWELL, Rachel Theresa
KUMST, Katina
MOWBRAY
BRESLER, Alta Angela Maria
PRETORIA
COLLINS, Francina Delina
COLLINS, Frances May
BOUWER, Johanna Maria
BOUWER, Petronella Jacoba Maria
RAMAH
VOSLOO, Jacobus Arnoldus
VOSLOO, Maurcen Muriel Greaves
MINNE, Hilda Hope
BRADLEY, Glenlyn Hazel
VEREENIGING
WILSON, James Alfred Vice
WILSON, Robert Norman

Blessings

BULAWAYO
PEAKE, Doris Florence Madge
THWAITS, Taryn Gay
THWAITS, Janine Patricia
CARLETONVILLE
VELLEMAN, Desire' Bartmann
DURBAN
McLELLAN, Laura Ann
PELSE, Lynne
KAPP, Louise Dianne

KRUGERSDORP
LOUW, Lindsay John
PRIMROSE
SWANEPOEL, Lily Magdaline Hendrina
RAMAH
MOSS, Alvin Winston
MOSS, Wendy Alice
VOSLOO, Jennifer Dawn
VOSLOO, Arnold
VOSLOO, Peter Edmond
JARDINE, Lavinia Ruth
ELS, Graham John

Marriages

GOOSEN, Marcin, married July 10, 1963, to Peter Stuart in the London Temple.
SANGMEISTER, Theo Agnes Eve, married January 5, 1963, at Durban, Natal.

Ordinations

DURBAN
DONE, George Edward—to an Elder.
NEL, William Daniel—to an Elder.
FREEMAN, Anthony William—to a Deacon.
EAST RAND
LEESON, Norman Desmond—to a Deacon.
KRUGERSDORP
BANFIELD, David Patrick Wilson—to an Elder.
JOUBERT, Jan Frederick—to an Elder.
DU PLESSIS, Colin André—to a Teacher.
JOUBERT, Francois Jacobus—to a Priest.
OOSTHUIZEN, Arthur Michael—to a Deacon.
OOSTHUIZEN, Pieter Frederick—to a Deacon.
MOWBRAY
BANFIELD, James Gilbert—to an Elder.
JURGENSEN, Hermanus Christiaan—to an Elder.
VAN RHYN, Petrus Benjamin—to an Elder.

WALLANDER, Olaf Denstine—to a Priest
BRUMMER, Layton—to a Deacon.
BESTER, Andre Cornelius—to a Deacon.
IMBRAILO, John Desmond—to a Deacon.
KARNEZOS, Nicholas Theodore—to a Deacon.
SPARG, John Frederick William—to a Deacon.
PRIMROSE
WILSON, George—to an Elder.
DE WET, Johannes Christiaan—to an Elder.
RAMAH
LONG, George Herbert—to an Elder.
VAN TONDER, Andries J. Basil—to an Elder.
DELATE, Cecil George—to an Elder.
VEREENIGING
WILSON, Arthur Gordon—to an Elder.
SNYMAN, Julian Joseph—to a Deacon.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

Appointments

ELDER R. KENT PARKER—Appointed second Counsellor in the South African Mission on October 20, 1963.

ELDER CHARLES WHITTAKER—Appointed Supervising Elder of the East Rand, November 11, 1963.

Arrivals

ELDER WILLIAM GENE BELL—from Sweet Home, Oregon, arrived November 6, 1963, and was assigned to labour in Johannesburg.

ELDER ROGER BRUCE MOORE—from Provo, Utah, arrived November 6, 1963, and was assigned to Pretoria.

ELDER KENNETH TRAVELLER—from Richmond, Utah, arrived November 6, 1963, and was assigned to Benoni.

Releases

ELDER JOHANNES T. MEIRING—Released November 13, 1963. Served in Springs, Alberton, Klerksdorp, and Cape Town.

Transfers

ELDER JOHN C. LAMB—from Durban to Benoni, October 7, 1963.

ELDER ROBERT CHRISTENSEN—from East London to Johannesburg, October 7, 1963.

ELDER LESLIE LARSON—from Johannesburg to Klerksdorp, October 7, 1963.

ELDER DANIEL STAPLEMAN—from Johannesburg to Durban, October 7, 1963.

ELDER RONALD MILLBURN—from Benoni to Mission Home, October 7, 1963.

ELDER KEITH C. GAMBLE—from Pretoria to Sea Point, Cape, November 1, 1963.

ELDER RONALD MILLBURN—from Mission Home to Pretoria, November 1, 1963.

ELDER JOHN S. MATHESON—from Cape Town to Stilfontein, November 3, 1963.

ELDER BARRY CHRISTIANSON—from Sea Point, Cape to Wynberg, Cape, November 3, 1963.

ELDER FRED L. TOMKINSON—from Stilfontein to Johannesburg, November 4, 1963.

ELDER DONAL BURNETT—from Mission Home to East London, November 7, 1963.

ELDER DAVID S. NICHOLLS—from Benoni to Bellville, Cape, November 7, 1963.

ELDER ROBERT CHRISTENSEN—from Johannesburg to Welkom, November 7, 1963.

SISTER LANA CHAPMAN—from Durban to Johannesburg, November 8, 1963.

SISTER LINDA KIMBALL—from Johannesburg to Durban, November 8, 1963.

ELDER GRANT DAYLEY—from Johannesburg to Pretoria, November 8, 1963.

PRESIDENT R. KENT PARKER—from Kensington, Johannesburg to Mission Home, November 11, 1963.

ELDER CHARLES WHITTAKER—from Mission Home to Kensington, Johannesburg, November 11, 1963.

ELDER MARK B. PETERSON—from Pretoria to Vanderbijl Park, November 13, 1963.

ELDER JACK G. EDWARDS—from Vanderbijl Park to Johannesburg, November 13, 1963.



Left for Home

ELDER JOHANNES T. MEIRING
Cape Town

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGE

January Sacrament Gems

Senior Sunday School: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24 : 15)

Junior Sunday School: Jesus said, "And if ye do always remember me ye shall have my spirit to be with you." (3 Nephi 18 : 7).

Please play Gem Music as printed in the November issue of the "Instructor".

Practice Hymns

Senior Sunday School: No. 3—"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Junior Sunday School: No. 27—"Sweet Is the Work, My God, My King." from "The Children Sing".

Coming Events

January 19, 1964—100% Sunday.

March 29, 1964—Easter Service.

THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH (Continued from page 316)

came an event in the boy's life which, after more than 100 years, is still a thrilling and inspiring narrative—one which will continue to thrill and inspire the hearts of believers throughout the ages to come. Joseph Jr. relates that he decided to go into a grove on his father's farm and kneel down and ask God to make known to him which of all the churches was true and which he should join.

"He did so, and in broad daylight there appeared before him, 'standing in the air,' 'two personages whose brightness and glory defy all description . . . One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, pointing to the other — 'this is my Beloved Son, hear him!'"

So began the life and ministry of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

THE IMPORT OF CHRISTMAS (Continued from page 317)

lesson and for the fact that the world still *does* celebrate Christmas. Whilst it is still there, at least those who have "eyes to see" and

"ears to hear" may pause and reflect upon the true import of Christmas which is the Life and Mission of Jesus the Christ.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS (Continued from page 319)

time.

Then, in spite of the greed, covetousness, and pleasure in the world, the message of Christmas is that God loves His children, and

that the faithful and unsophisticated would receive great rewards for their humble faith. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

IDEAL WIFEHOOD IN THE NUCLEAR AGE (Continued from page 321)

There should be no secrets between man and wife. They should be able to confide in each other freely, knowing they can trust one another.

There is a touch of the divine in heartfelt marital affection. It gathers together body, mind and spirit in a way no other experience

can achieve.

My earnest prayer is that the spirit of our Father in Heaven will dwell within us, making us better wives. That our husbands may say this of us: "Passing years added strength to virtues; of women you were the Queen, a vision of all that's lovely, as to me you've ever been."

BRANCH REPORTS



BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH REPORT

Alma Robb

DURING the past month things have been a little on the quiet side, with the different auxiliaries carrying on with activities as usual.

The M.I.A. and the Singing Mothers have been hard at practice for the opening of the Welkom Chapel. During the month, the M.I.A. held a Halloween night which was very enjoyable.

We are sorry to note that Sister Dagleish from Kimberley is at present in hospital here in Bloemfontein where she underwent an operation. We all wish her a speedy recovery and God's blessings. We are glad to be able to report that Brother Malcolm Miller is once again back in the army here at Tempe, and is looking very well and fit in spite of the terrible ordeal that he went through.

At the time of writing, Brother Pieter and Sister Anita Milne are away on a business-holiday trip. We do hope they are enjoying themselves, but at the same time we do miss them very much.

To the saints everywhere, we here in Bloemfontein all join in wishing you all a very merry Christmas, and may God bless and guide you all throughout the coming new year.

BULAWAYO BRANCH REPORT

ON September 7, Sister Joyce Yates organized a highly successful concert. The audience was most appreciative, and in a show where every number was good it is difficult to spotlight any particular event, but we would like to say that Olive Robson's impressions of "The School Teacher" and "A Bad Business" certainly contributed to the enjoyment of all. We thank those who so kindly gave of their time and talents to this splendid event.

Baby Karen Jubber was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Jubber Sr., and we pray that Karen may grow into a lovely woman and that she will walk in the ways of the Lord continually with our Heavenly Father's and her parents' help.

Our Relief Society project has achieved great heights. The Relief Society Sisters were given 10/- each and were asked to increase the amount by their own efforts, and the fruits of their efforts were astonishing. £42.10.0d we realized, and together with our "challenge money" of £59, the total of £101.10.0d was contributed to the building fund. The Relief Society has now been in recess since October 1.

A special meeting was held on October 10, so that we could have the pleasure of meeting our Sisters in the Gospel from Krugersdorp. Sister Strydom, the Krugersdorp Relief Society President, and Sister Levy made our evening most interesting and full of the sweet spirit of love and a beautiful zeal to learn new ideas for our future

bazaar. We wish to thank these sisters for enabling us to meet and associate for a short time with such wonderful Latter-day Saints. We were indeed privileged.

On October 26, a Fancy Dress Social was held to raise funds for the payment of a table-tennis table. There were certainly some very original costumes. The judges had a hard time deciding who was the most original. The prizes were donated by Sister Hertog our Activity Director. After the prize giving, a snow-ball dance was started, followed by the virginia reel which was most exhausting. Then at last came the pleasure of refreshments prepared once more by the good sisters. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

We send our love and greetings to the saints throughout the South African Mission.

CARLETONVILLE BRANCH REPORT

Cecilia Nell

IT is good to see investigators out to our Sunday meetings, and we appreciate and commend our two missionaries on their efforts.

We extend to Brother and Sister Verwey our sincere congratulations on their baptisms, and we pray for the Lord's blessings on them, and may our Heavenly Father always guide them.

Sister Pittendreich and her daughter from Port Elizabeth visited us on Fast and Testimony Sunday. President K. Powrie and President P. Faber visited us on the 13th October.

We congratulate Brother J. Joubert who has been advanced to an Elder, and to Brother Colin du Plessis and F. Joubert who have been advanced in the Aaronic Priesthood.

As usual, the Transvaal District Conference was a real inspiration to all of us, and especially to our investigators.

Elder Louis Nell, Jr. from the Netherlands sends greetings to all of the saints here in South Africa.

Our Relief Society Sisters are busy sewing for a bazaar and braaivleis-

The saints in Carletonville extend their best wishes for the future to all branches in the South African Mission.

COPPERBELT BRANCH REPORT

Iris J. Engh



WE are sorry to say that Brother Fourie has had to undergo another operation, but we thank our Heavenly Father that he is feeling much better now and able to attend services once more. Although his condition is not yet 100%, we know that with the prayers of all of the saints he will be restored to good health again.

It was a very happy occasion when Brother Richard Brandon, Robert E. Luke and Harold R. Luke were ordained Deacons in the Aaronic Priesthood. May the Lord bless these brethren in their callings.

We would like to congratulate Sister Glynis McTavish and Norma Calteaux on reaching the wonderful age of 21. They are both excellent examples of what young Mormon womanhood should be, and we are proud of them. All credit goes to their dear parents for teaching them the gospel and what our Heavenly Father expects of them.

There is to be a bumper cake sale at the end of November to raise funds for the Sunday School Christmas Tree Party, so the sisters will have to "pull their socks up" and get busy with the baking pans.

We are certainly going to miss all of the members who are leaving on holiday, but we take this opportunity of wishing them a very happy

holiday, and may they come back ready to work all the harder. We also want to send Christmas greetings to all of the saints everywhere, and may the New Year bring them joy and their hearts desires. God bless you one and all.

DURBAN BRANCH REPORT

Julie Bakker



WE would like to welcome in the branch our two new members, John Gustav Filmalter and Herman John Kee who were baptised on the 5th October. We all extend a warm welcome to them.

On the 23rd October, we had a game of basket ball and a farewell party afterwards for Sister Lynette Duncan. Lynette left for the United States on the 24th October, to study at the Brigham Young University. We all wish her Bon Voyage, and we pray for the Lord's choicest blessings to go with her. We are going to miss her in Durban.

Welcome visitors to Durban this month were Brother and Sister Van Brandwyk from the Transvaal. Another visitor this month was Sister Cartwright from Cape Town. We were certainly very pleased to see her.

We extend a warm welcome to Brother and Sister Olaf Wallender from Cape Town who have come to make their home in Durban.

We extend our congratulations to Sister Denise Kapp on the birth of her daughter Louise.

Brother Jake De Wet and Sister Maureen Joubert surprised us when they announced their engagement. We hear that the wedding will be early next year. We send our congratulations to them for the future.

District Conference was held on the 27th October. It certainly was wonderful to see President and Sister Alldredge again. We enjoy their spiritual messages.

On Tuesday, October 29, we had a Halloween Party which was enjoyed by all.

We send our greetings to all the saints in the South African Mission.

EAST LONDON BRANCH REPORT

Finnie Van Heerden

ON Saturday evening, October 26, we were all found at the home of President Corrigan where a Concert-Social was given to raise funds for the children's Christmas Tree Party. The most outstanding feature of the evening was the singing of sisters Ann Corrigan and Elizabeth Human.

On Saturday evening, the 2nd November, there was a good turn-out of the members at the home of Brother and Sister Jubber to welcome President and Sister Alldredge. They brought with them a film entitled "By Their Fruits", and everyone present enjoyed it immensely and felt that it would be a great benefit to the class teachers of the branch. After the film, President and Sister Alldredge were able to mingle and chat with the members while the Relief Society Sisters served refreshments.

Sister Behrend and her son Raymond were baptized at the Nahoon River at 7.00 a.m. the following morning. Quite a few members attended.

At 9.00 a.m., the Priesthood and Relief Society, presided over by President and Sister Alldredge respectively, held meetings in the Sons of England Hall. This was later followed by Sunday School services at which Sister Behrend and her son were confirmed and Neville and Teresa Strydom were blessed. We pray that our Heavenly Father will

bless these members that their testimonies and faith will grow in the Gospel.

At 2.30 p.m., the branch gathered for conference. We heard inspired talks by President C. Doller, President Corrigan, Elder Winder and President and Sister Alldredge.

Some of the members here have been suffering from various illnesses, although nothing serious, and all are up and about again except for Sister Elizabeth Human who was very sad at not being able to attend conference. We pray that our Heavenly Father will help her to soon get well.

We have had a lovely crowd of visitors from various branches. They were Brother and Sister Henning from Durban, Brother Leland Doller from Durban, Brother and Sister Ernie Doller from Port Elizabeth, and President C. Doller from Port Elizabeth.

Now we take this opportunity of saying a fond farewell to Elder Winder, and we also welcome Elder Burnett who is taking his place.

EAST RAND BRANCH REPORT

Lucy Carr

THE following words of Celia Luke came to mind after we saw some films at M.I.A. on the 8th October. "I held a diamond in the sun light. It sent sparkles of rainbow hues in every direction. It took ordinary sunlight and reflected it back in a thousand beams of beauty.

"I know people who are like diamonds. They take ordinary life and give to it a sparkle of beauty. They do more than just what is expected, and are always finding ways to make life glow with happiness for those around them. They add colour and sparkle to every day life, changing it from a drab existence to a glorious adventure."

These thoughts also seem to ring through our minds when we see how the saints of the East Rand Branch react to assignments that they receive. At this time we especially think of the ladies of the Relief Society and the wonderful work they do such as catering at the District Conference and their bazaar.

On the 13th October, we had in our midst Brother Ken Armstrong from Springs. The forceful message that he left will stay fresh in our minds. After listening to a talk like Brother Ken's, you are just sorry that you can't share it with your fellow saints everywhere.

Sister Hyde of Brakpan celebrated her 89th birthday on the 23rd. The saints had a happy evening at the home of Brother and Sister Smith to celebrate this memorable occasion.

To Brother Norman Reeson, the 27th was a memorable occasion, for on this beautiful morning he was ordained a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood. We are proud of you Brother Norman and pray that the Lord will bless you in this great gift that you have received. The same morning Brother F. B. Carr was set apart as 2nd Counsellor to the Branch President.

The Halloween Party makes us think of the "witches brew" that we enjoyed. To really appreciate this, we were obliged to eat it in the dark. Brothers Balmer and Jacobs laughed so much that they swallowed some of the "cat's claws" and "owl's eyes" that it contained. Nevertheless, it was a most enjoyable gathering.

Sister C. Holtshausen was married to Mr. H. Naude on the 2nd November. We wish them a long, happy, and prosperous life together.

Instead of the usual Family Hour on the 3rd, our Primary substituted with an excellent programme. We were happy to have Sister Cherrett with us, and we hope she enjoyed the programme as much as we did. We extend our congratulations to Sister van Zyl, the Primary teachers, and the children for their contribution. They made us realize just how important the home guide is.

Although the number of people attending our Relief Society Bazaar was disappointing and although a Summer shower chased us

indoors, the saints still had a most enjoyable day together. On Sunday, we were happy to have Sister Dell in our midst to share our Relief Society Programme. It was inspiring to listen to the sisters' testimonies, and the Singing Mothers highlighted the occasion with their beautiful singing.

Sunday, the 10th November, marked a visit from Elder Hugo, one of the District Counselmen. We were indeed privileged to have him with us and to have him encourage us the way he did.

We welcomed to our fold during the last month Elder John C. Lamb, and we pray that our Heavenly Father will bless him in his service here. We no sooner welcomed Elder Lamb when we had to bid Elder Nicholls farewell. Our best wishes accompany him on his mission, and also on his homeward journey and his future studies.

Sister Balmer has not been to well lately. We pray that the Great Physician will heal her ailment so that she may carry on with her work as faithfully as in the past. Two of our sisters were admitted to the hospital during the last month. They were Sister Rautenbach and Sister leRoux, but thanks to our Heavenly Father, they are both well again. Mr. du Plessis is seriously ill in the Benoni-Boksburg Hospital. We pray that the Lord will comfort Sister du Plessis in this difficult time.

The saints of the East Rand greet their brethren and sisters everywhere, and we pray that the Lord's richest blessings will rest upon you.

KLERKSDORP BRANCH REPORT

May Schultz

ON the 19th October, Brother Schultz and I attended our first District Banquet which was held at Ramah, and it was a very enjoyable evening. We all enjoyed the skits given by the Elders, and we thought that they were very good considering the short time they had to make them up. We all arrived home late and tired after the conference, but we were very pleased to have been able to attend.

Brother Schultz performed his first baptism by baptizing his second son and Carol Fagen. Carol Fagan was doubly excited about it all because it was her eight birthday as well. May they both always be an example to their friends, and may the Lord always guide them wherever they go and protect them from harm and temptations.

We hope that Brother Ken Jubber likes being with us. I guess that he does miss the bigger branch sometimes.

We hope that President and Sister Wilson are having a happy and enjoyable holiday.

We had to say good-bye to Elder Tomkinson who has been transferred back to Johannesburg. We extend our welcome to Elder Matheson, and we pray that he will enjoy his stay here as much as Elder Tomkinson did. We are happy to have him with us.

We pray for God's blessings upon all saints everywhere.

KRUGERSDORP BRANCH REPORT

Joyce Levy

THIS month we have exceeded our previous month's sum of R1,400 by raising R2,225 for our building fund. The tempo has been speeded up. There is such a lot of work still to be done that the men and women are working every night. Some are painting, others tiling, and a few doing the floors. Our lawn has grown, but lots of weeds have grown also.

We are all very pleased to see Sister Joe Sawyer well enough to attend church and Relief Society. We are very grateful that her treatments are doing her so much good and enabling her to be active again. She is now able to do her sewing and many other jobs in the Church.

We are also very happy to see Sister M. Harris once more out of the hospital, but we are very sorry that as yet she is not completely

well, but we hope and pray that it will not be long before she also is able to move around without so much discomfort.

The Relief Society sisters in our Branch are having singing practices every Thursday with the exception of the work meetings, so we have not really gone into recess. We have collected some really lovely things for our coming bazaar, and we are still busy making more.

Last Sunday was a wonderful occasion for the Welkom Branch, being the opening of their chapel. We ask the Lord to bless them in the future, and may their chapel soon be full of new members.

Saturday, November 16, was a big occasion in our branch, because during the week we had three birthdays, and the party for them was held at Brother and Sister Coetzee's house. The birthday people were little Chatty Coetzee, Sister Marien Coetzee, and Sister Eilene Patterson. We wish them all many happy returns, and may they have health and happiness in the future.

Sister Sheela Bibb has been very busy selling re-issued (last years done over) Christmas cards to aid the building fund.

We wish all the other saints in the mission a very happy Christmas, and may the Lord bless the mission during the New Year.

MOWBRAY BRANCH REPORT

Beatrice Smith



THIS has been an exceedingly busy month at our branch. There has been great activity among all of the auxiliaries, and we look back on a very happy time of co-operative work.

We send congratulations to Brother Gerald Wiffen and his bride, Sister Marie Fourie, who were married by President Alldredge on the 3rd October. The chapel was beautifully decorated with flowers for the occasion. The bride wore the traditional white satin. Bridesmaid Diane Dallender and flower girls were in pink. Many friends gathered to wish these two happy young people every joy in life. We also add our congratulations to those already received by Sister Ferna Pietersen and her fiance, Mr. Macey, on their engagement. Sister Ferna is the granddaughter of one of our very oldest members, Sister Martha Murphy.

The annual Gold and Green Ball was held on the 4th October. The hall was beautifully decorated in a manner reminiscent of old Mexico. The floor show was really spectacular. Add to this delicious refreshments and very good music and we had all of the ingredients required for a successful event. All present had a wonderful time, and the District M.I.A. is to be commended for this evening of splendid entertainment.

Our District Conference was held on the 5th and 6th of October. All officers and teachers are very grateful to President and Sister Alldredge for the very fine instruction received at the special officers and teachers meeting on the 5th. The three Sunday sessions were exceedingly well attended, and the Gospel was expounded in all of its aspects for the benefit of members and friends. We thank all of those who took part, and especially the Relief Society Singing Sisters, the "Cumorah Choir", and Brother Dean for his beautiful organ solo. May all that we heard that day have its full effect on our lives.

Brother Willem Maritz has been in the hospital for an operation. We are glad to see him up and about again. Sister Hilda Dyason is in the hospital where she has undergone an operation. The latest victim to the measles epidemic is Sister Kerrilyn le Roux. We pray that all of those who are ill may soon be restored to good health.

Our very deepest sympathy goes to Sister Hazel Smith and the van Eck family on the death of their father. May they soon find comfort in their bereavement.

We welcome home Sister Imelda Fourie who has recently returned from the United Kingdom where she has been living for the past few years. We feel sure that Sister Zoraida Williams has reached a new pinnacle of happiness at having her daughter home again.

The M.I.A. celebrated Halloween on the 29th October with a scavenger hunt, dancing and refreshments. Some wicked witches, eerie owls and vampirish bats decorated the hall. The scavengers were quite successful in their hunting.

A considerable amount of work before and during the 1st and 2nd November led to a very good bazaar. The stall holders exercised great ingenuity in erecting very pretty booths with loads of tempting merchandise. An unexpected thunderstorm took us all by surprised on Friday evening, and we trust that it did not scare away too much custom. An innovation was the "Littel Peepul's Fashun Show" at which our little ones displayed some of the models and creations made by the sisters. This aroused interest in the stocks at the needlework stalls. An amount of over R750.00 was raised.

PRETORIA BRANCH REPORT

Anna Muller



THE highlight of our report this month is of course the Transvaal District Conference at Ramah on the 20th October, with President and Sister Alldredge in attendance. Pretoria members came home spiritually refreshed and inspired by all the wonderful messages. Our thanks go to the Ramah Choir and the Missionary Choirs for their contributions to a memorable day. It certainly is an uplifting and stirring experience to listen to such beautiful music. We wish to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to all those officers who were sustained on this occasion. May our Heavenly Father bless them and guide them at all times. The Pretoria Branch is indeed blessed with having so many members called to service in the District.

We are very happy to see Sister Erasmus at our meetings again after her long stay in the hospital. Sister Nella van Vuuren is still ill, and we pray that the Lord may stretch His healing hand over her. We send congratulations to all of those new members who were baptised this month. May the Lord give them courage and strength that they may continue growing in the light of the Gospel.

On Sunday, October 29, the M.I.A. conducted the evening service. The beautiful musical numbers by Sister C. du Plessis and the M.I.A. Choir deeply touched the hearts of all. May the M.I.A. all over the world continue to grow and progress. Although the Relief Society is in recess, the sisters are still meeting every week to practice for the Relief Society evening service. The Primary has also been very hard at work practicing for the Primary evening service. Our sincere thanks go to all of those Primary officers and teachers who work so diligently to help our children to become Latter-day Saints.

The present genealogy course is well under way and is being very well attended.

Once again we had to bid farewell to one of our missionaries. Elder Gamble has left for Cape Town. May his labours there be fruitful.

Pretoria has been blessed with some much needed rain and it looks as if we can expect more. The cooler weather is certainly a wel-

come relief after the very hot and dry weather we have been experiencing.

We extend our best wishes and congratulations to Brother and Sister Blignaut on the birth of a son and to Brother and Sister Struthers on the birth of a daughter.

Owing to the writing of exams, activities have been quiet in the branch among the younger members giving them plenty of time to study. We wish them all every success at this time.

We also wish to extend Christmas and New Year greetings to all members everywhere.

PRIMROSE BRANCH REPORT

Pearl Wilson

WE are very pleased to announce the following baptisms: Brother and Sister Parsons and their two daughters. We wish them God's blessings in their service to the Lord. We welcome them and may they be richly blessed in our midst. We would also like at this time to welcome in our midst Brother Otto and his eight-year-old son who were baptized on the 2nd November. May the Lord bless them and help them to endure to the end.

We wish to congratulate Brother and Sister Swanepoel on their new arrival in the family. May she be a blessing to her parents is our wish.

We were sorry to say good-bye to Brother and Sister Hees and their family who have left our branch to make their new home in Sabie, Eastern Transvaal. We wish them godspeed in their new venture, and we will always miss them very much.

Our M.I.A. is in recess at the moment until we are able to find a hall.

We are very grateful to the Lord for healing President Norbury's badly burned hand.

The passed few months have been very quiet as far as fund raising projects. Since we have heard from the Germiston City Council that they have no objections to the building of a chapel, we are very keen in raising the necessary fund to start. The Branch Presidency is visiting all of the homes of the members, and so far, have met with great success with their building fund contributions.

We welcome into our midst the two Slabbert brothers and their families, and we are hoping that they will enjoy their new surroundings, and we pray that we may make them happy and feel at home here.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brother de Wet and Brother Wilson on becoming Elders. May the Lord bless them in their efforts that they will be a shining light before their Maker, and that they guard and treasure their Priesthood. On the 1st November, we had a dinner at Brother and Sister Wilson's home to aid our Christmas Party. It was quite successful, and we would like to thank those who made this possible by supporting us so well.

RAMAH BRANCH REPORT

Evereld Matthews

GENERALLY this has been a quiet month—a lull before the Christmas storm!

The Relief Society Bazaar was a wonderful success both as a financial and a social evening. The stalls were most artistically arranged, and all of the sisters have our hearty congratulations on their stout effort. First prize for the best stall was awarded to Sister Ivy and Sylvia Milne for their Toyland; second prize was awarded to Sister Kay Purchase for Arts and Crafts, and third prize was awarded to Sister Maree for the Baby Stall. There was something for everybody at the function.

All of our members are very enthusiastic in the project of beautifying the Ramah gardens, and about fifty of the Priesthood brethren

turned out to cultivate the quadrangle. In four hours it was ready for planting grass. Then on Thursday evening, the 21st November, many members, mostly women, planted the grass in approximately two hours.

We extend our congratulations to Brother Beoff and Sister Anne Schwartz on the birth of a son. The male members are catching up as predicted!

The Primary Evening, conducted to encourage co-operation between families and their Primary children, was very successful.

The Ramah Branch would like to extend congratulations to the Welkom saints on the opening of their new chapel.

The genealogical committee is conducting a revision course for old students to familiarise them with the new temple sheet.

The M.I.A. had a most enjoyable evening on Guy Fawkes night when rockets were set off from the parking grounds.

Christmas is here again and our thoughts are all turned to the theme of "good will to all men". May God grant us the inspiration to set a good example for our fellow-men. Our best wishes go to the saints everywhere for a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

SALISBURY BRANCH REPORT

Jean Schonberg



THE flamboyants have followed the fading jacarandas in quick succession and Salisbury is a blaze of flame along many of its avenues. We thank our Heavenly Father for the beauty of the ever changing seasons in this lovely land in which we live.

On October 28, the last Federation Day to be commemorated, a band of the saints set out for a nearby lake for a branch outing. The day remained clear despite the fact that there had been some early rains, and it proved to be a happy event for all who were able to be present. The children thoroughly enjoyed the break from school work.

November 2, was the date of the Relief Society Sisters' visit to the Reps Theatre where they enjoyed a performance of "The Remarkable Mr. Penny-Packer". The Sisters were quite delighted at the unexpected mention of the Salt Lake City Mormons during the course of the play. After the performance the sisters spoke with the theatre manager, and while mentioning how much they enjoyed the evening they also were happy to let him know that there had been quite a group of Mormons in the audience. During the month, Sister Grace E. Corbett, Relief Society President, and Sister Joyce M. Trotter and Julia M. Shaw, Relief Society Counsellors, were released with a vote of thanks for their splendid work and organization. Sister Jean M. Schonberg was sustained as the new Relief Society President with Sister Joyce M. Trotter and Vera Bell as her counsellors. Sister June M. Frost remained as Secretary-Treasurer.

A Genealogy Programme is being prepared under the chairmanship of Sister Grace E. Corbett with the Secretary-Treasurer being Brother Alexander B. Corbett. The saints here are looking forward to future meetings and the opportunity of working together on this project which is of such vital importance in the Gospel Plan.

During the month we were happy to have had news from Anne Hoffman who is now visiting San Francisco and learn of the interesting time which she is spending in the United States.

The M.I.A. is carrying forward its programmes, and the young people are rehearsing their plays and gymnastics. Sister Jean M. Schonberg was released as First Counsellor and teacher in the M.I.A.,

and Brother Desmond Bell was sustained as First Counsellor and Brother Alexander B. Corbett was sustained as teacher. We pray that they will each find much joy and satisfaction in this work for the Lord.

Brother Alexander B. Corbett was released with a vote of thanks from his position as Branch Clerk, and Brother Francis L. Oliver was sustained to his important position.

A picnic, braaiivleis and fireworks display was held at Domboshawa on November 8. This building fund project was under the organization of the Priesthood, and a very fine event it was. Young and old enjoyed themselves in the relaxing atmosphere—members and many friends making a happy evening of it together. After various expenses were deducted the sum of £6.11.6 went to swell the building fund.

The saints in Salisbury send warmest greetings to all other branches in the South African Mission, and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless and support His children everywhere in the work which He has called them to do.

SPRINGS BRANCH REPORT

Melaney Peterson



THE members enjoyed the Relief Society's closing function which took the form of a "Fashion Parade Through the Ages," and the ladies themselves enjoyed the fun of dressing up and being on stage. Our Relief Society Bazaar, which has been advertised for so long, became an actuality, and congratulations go to those sisters who helped to make it the success it was. We also found spiritual pleasure in the programme the sisters presented on Sunday evening, the 10th of November.

The Primary children always succeed in delighting the congregation when the Primary is in charge of a programme, and the one held on the first Sunday of the month was no exception. We know how hard those in charge of the Primary worked to perfect this programme, and we thank them for that.

Our sincere congratulations go to Elder Hugo on his advancement to the District High Council, and it is good to know that he is a member of our branch. Congratulations also go to our new Sunday School Superintendent, Brother ven Niekerk, and his counsellor, Brother Val and Brother Richard, and our prayers is that the Lord will guide them in their work.

The Halloween Party held by the M.I.A. catered for those with strang nerves, for our classrooms became miniature chambers of horror for the evening. Shrieks and groans and ghostly music filled the rooms, and we thoroughly enjoyed our experiences with the unexpected. The M.-Men and Gleaner class listened to actual recordings from the Second World War at their fireside this month.

Our plans for the alteration and extension of our chapel are going ahead very quickly now, and we definitely have the feeling that our dreams are going to materialise soon. The missionaries are bringing in new investigators, and we know that once we have our new classrooms, there is no doubt that our Father in Heaven will provide the people to fill them.

VEREENIGING BRANCH REPORT

Rowland Roberts

AN over-night outing was organized for the boys for the 9th of October. They camped out that evening and the fololwing day they spent fishing. Those fish were lucky, because they all managed to escape. Anyway, the boys enjoyed themselves under the guidance of President Pienaar, Brother Roberts and Brother Slabbert. It is intended to take the Vanguards

out on another camping trip during December, and Brother Brummer will be their guide and protection.

Congratulations are due for the Wilson family of Vereenign on the ordination of Brother Arthur to the Melchizedek Priesthood. We pray that the Lord will prosper them and guide their footsteps in the paths of rightenousness. Congratulations also go to Brother Snyman and his family on Brother Snyman's ordination to the Aaronic Priesthood, and we pray the blessings of the Lord will be upon him and his family.

We have said good-bye to both of the Slabbert families who have left for Germiston, and we wish them all the blessings that can accrue to faithful members. Our loss will be Primrose Branch's gain. We are sure that these two families will continue to be very staunch and active members. These families would be an asset to any Branch.

An M.I.A. Halloween Party was held last Wednesday. Sister Roberts, as a witch, was active weaving her spells, and a good time was had by all.

The spirit of our Branch is excellent and the members of good cheer. We have, of course like other Branches, been unable to activate all members, but with the aid of the Lord, we will continue in our endeavours to do so.

The District Conference was attended by quite a few members, and our spirits received a tremendous boost from the messages which we received, and we thank the Lord that we have such inspiring District and Mission leaders. They always inspire us to greater heights.

We are still busy in our efforts to raise funds for building our chapel, and although we have not reached our target, we are not downhearted, and we are sure that our Heavenly Father will bless our efforts.

We extend our regards to all of the saints everywhere, and may Providence help you in your efforts to further His kingdom on earth.

*The foundation of a noble character
is integrity. By this virtue the strength
of a nation, as of an individual, may
be judged.*

David O. McKay.

REC'D 17 FEB

Peace on Earth
Goodwill toward Men

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CUMORAH'S SOUTHERN MESSENGER

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David H. Luthy, Assoc. Editor

O. Layton Alldredge, Editor

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